Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-14 CIEP-02 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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R 311325Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5796
INFO USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

AMEMBASSY PARIS

E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, PK, UR, XA SUBJ: ENERGY: SOVIETS SHOW SENSITIVITY TO

EFFECT OF ENERGY CRISIS ON THIRD WORLD

1. TWO PRAVDA ARTICLES JANUARY 30 REFLECT SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO EFFECTS OF ENERGY CRISIS ON THIRD WORLD OIL CONSUMERS, TAKING LINE THAT THINGS REALLY AREN'T SO BAD. COMMENTARY ON AFRICAN-ARAB MEETING FOCUSES ON POSITIVE EFFECT OF ARAB SCHEME TO KEEP AFRICAN STATES SUPPLIED WITH FUEL. REPORT ON IMPACT OF FUEL SHORTAGE IN PAKISTAN NOTES APPROVINGLY THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WEDDED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEST ARE BEING FORCED TO REASSESS EXCLUSIVE

DEPENDENCE ON WESTERN TRADE TIES.

- 2. COMMENTARY ON AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE (BY POTEMKIN)
 TAKES FAVORABLE VIEW OF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS' COMMITMENT
 TO GUARANTEE DIRECT DUPPLIES OF FUEL TO AFRICAN STATES
 AND TO CREATE FUND FOR AFRICAN ASSISTANCE. ARTICLE
 ALSO NOTES APPROVINGLY THAT IN A NUMBER OF AFRICAN
 STATES OIL COMPANIES WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM FUEL TRADE.
 CITING BOTH ARAB LEAGUE AND OAU SYG'S ON POSITIVE
 RESULTS FROM MEETING, POTEMKIN CONCLUDES THAT MEETING'S
 SUCCESS DEMONSTRATES FUTILITY OF EFFORTS BY WEST TO
 DIVIDE AFRICANS AND ARABS AND TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF
 OIL "MONOPOLIES."
- 3. ARTICLE ON ENERGY CRISIS' IMPACT IN PAKISTAN BY PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT MASLENNIKOV REPORTS THAT RISING COST OF FUEL AND OTHER NECESSARY IMPORTS IS FORCING PAKISTAN TO RETHINK ITS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC PRIORITIES. ACCORDING TO MASLENNIKOV, LOCAL ECONOMISTS BELIEVE PAKISTAN MUST REDUCE IMPORTS AND INCREASE ROLE OF STATE SECTOR IN ECONOMY. GOP HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER ENERGY BY NATIONALIZING TWO MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND HAS PLANS FOR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED EXPLORATION TO INCREASE DOMESTIC FUEL RESOURCES. NOTING THAT RECENT INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET EMBASSY ECON COUNSELOR ON SOVIET-PAKISTANI TRADE DREW "BROAD COMMENT" FROM PRESS, AUTHOR SAYS INCREASING NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS ARE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT RESTRUCTURING PAKISTANI FOREIGN TRADE AND ARE MORE FREQUENTLY LOOKING TOWARD SOCIALIST STATES WHERE STABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH CON-TRASTS WITH PRESENT CHAOS IN WEST.DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, EXPORTS, IMPORTS, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY,

NATIONALIZATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note:

Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW01512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: MOSCOW Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974013/aaaaabuc.tel

Line Count: 92 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: morefirh Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 APR 2002 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 MAY 2002 by morefirh>

Review Markings: Declassified/Released

US Department of State EO Systematic Review

30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ENERGY: SOVIETS SHOW SENSITIVITY TO EFFECT OF ENERGY CRISIS ON THIRD WORLD

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, PK, UR, XA To: STATE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005